



Columbia Public Schools

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Columbia Students Outscore State, National Peers on ACT Exams

Columbia, MO – Columbia Public Schools' students continue to perform well on the ACT exam administered in 2012, outscoring their state and national peers.

The recently released ACT Profile Report, which summarizes the performance of ACT test-takers in the Class of 2012, indicates that Columbia students' average composite score is 23.4, compared to 21.6 for Missouri test-takers and 21.1 for test-takers across the nation.

The scores in each assessed area, English, mathematics, reading and science, remain consistent with 2011 results. The average scores for African-American students increased over last year's results, rising from 17.8 in 2011 to 18.4 in 2012.

The percent of the graduating class taking the ACT exam remains stable. In 2012, 73.6 percent of the graduating class took the exam compared to 73.7 percent in 2011 and 70.7 percent in 2010. The district continues to encourage students to take the ACT exam. In 2012, 873 students took the test compared to 788 in 2003.

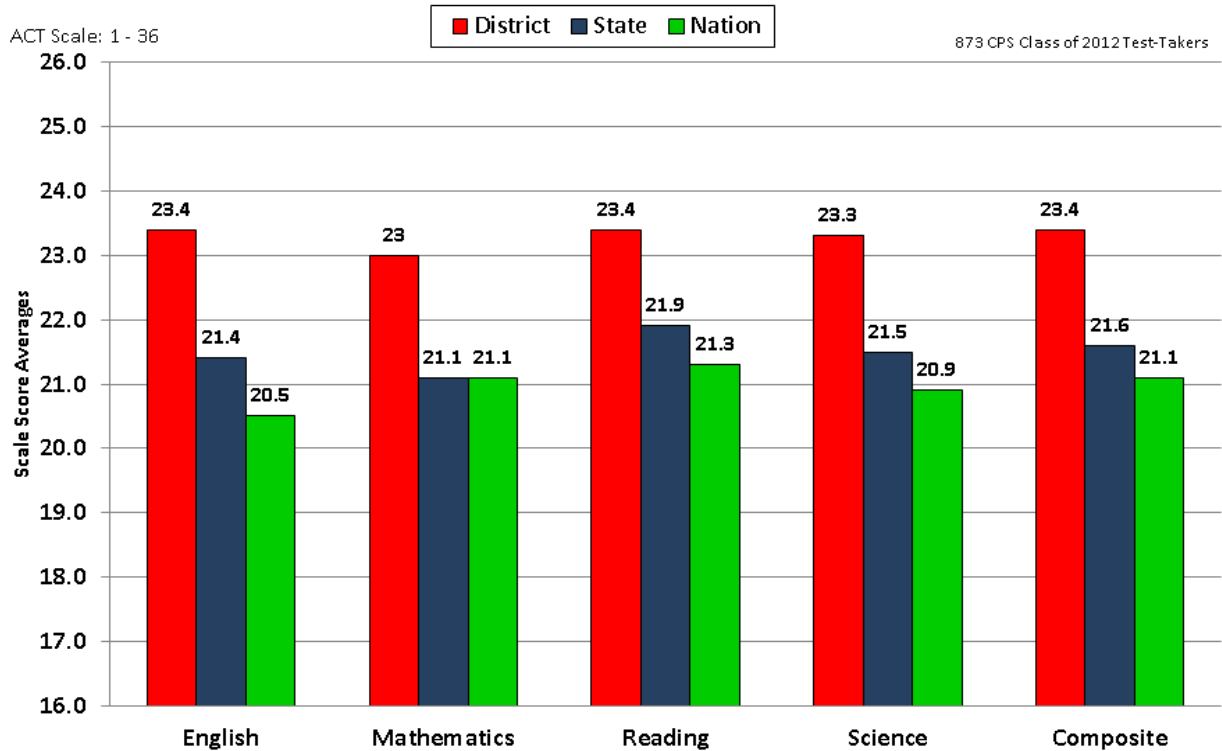
Additionally, the percent of the graduating class taking the ACT and scoring at or above the college readiness benchmark continues to be significantly higher than state and national averages in all subject areas. Students who took three or four years of course work associated with tested areas also scored well on the exam, scoring four points better than their peers who had not completed the same level of coursework.

"The ACT is an achievement test. Students who prepare by taking the courses aligned with the ACT test content are bound to perform much better," said Superintendent Chris Belcher. "Our continued goal is to increase the number of students taking the recommended courses."

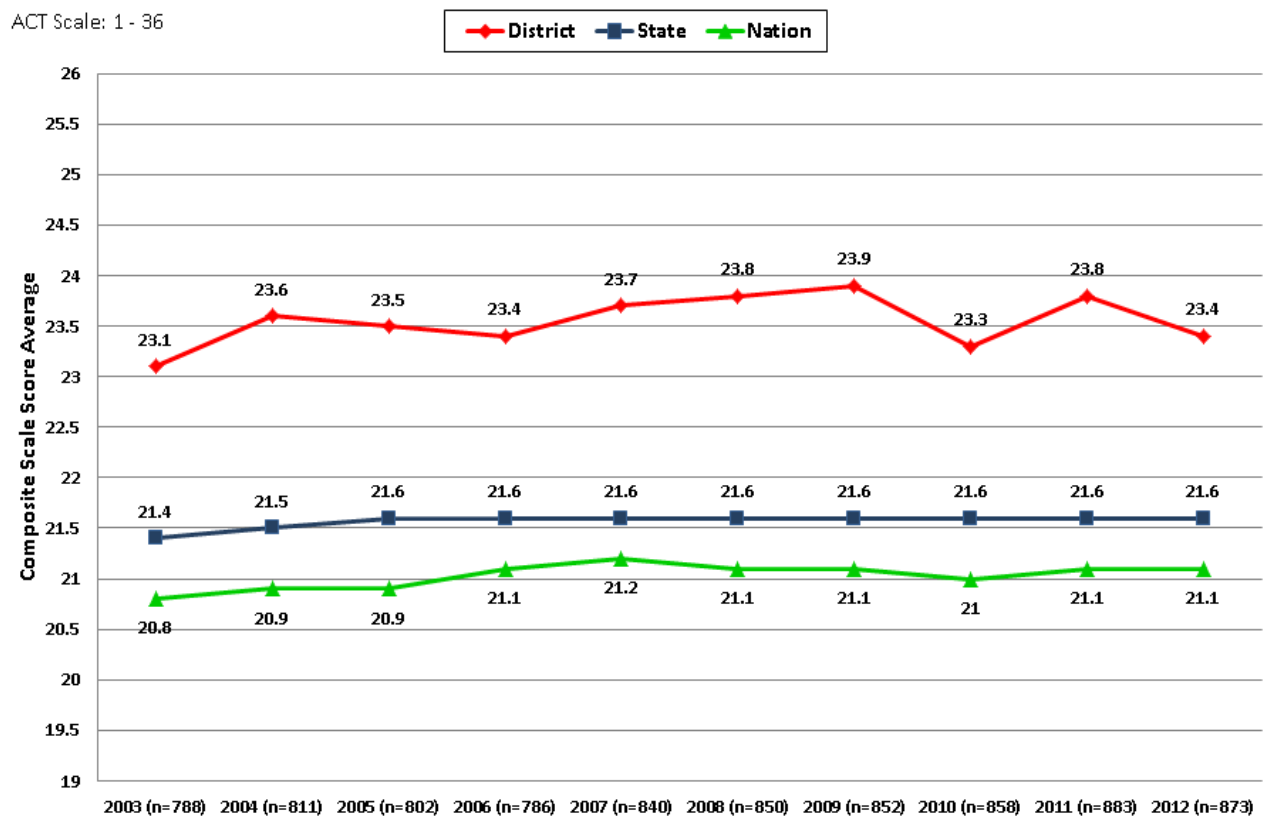
The ACT is America's most widely accepted college entrance exam, with scores ranging from 1 to 36. It assesses high school students' general educational development and their preparation to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

Below are charts displaying score comparisons across Columbia Public Schools, the state and the nation as well as score trends since 2003.

ACT Scale Score Averages, Class of 2012 Columbia Public Schools, Missouri, and United States



ACT Composite Scale Score Averages Columbia Public Schools, Missouri, and Nation Classes of 2003 - 2012



ACT Scale Score Averages Columbia Public Schools Graduating Classes of 2003-2012

Scale: 1-36
National Average = Approximately 21
(shown by green horizontal line)

